Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing recognizability of objects/groups in a workspace, comprising:

determining whether a first object/group is moved to a location within a predetermined distance of a second object/group; and

assigning a display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group upon placement of the first object/group in the workspace, whereby the first object/group and the second object/group form a group,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group to the first object/group, a distance from the weighted center of the second object/group to the first object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group to the first object/group.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the objects/groups are free-format.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the display cue includes at least one of group-specific background color for objects/groups, group-specific color for text of objects/groups, group-specific color for bounding lines for objects/groups, colored halos or containers for objects/groups, colored regions surrounding objects/groups, line pattern boundaries for objects/groups, unique halftone or gray-shade boundaries for objects/groups, common font for text of objects/groups, and title bars.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising temporarily assigning the display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group when the first object/group is moved to a location within the predetermined distance of the second object/group.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether the second object/group has an assigned display cue; and

when the second object/group is determined not to have an assigned display cue, assigning another display cue that is different from a display cue of neighboring objects/groups

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising when the first object/group is determined not to be within the predetermined distance of the second object/group, identifying the first object/group as unassigned.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first object/group is a new object.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first object/group is an existing object/group being moved from another location in the workspace.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a boundary of the second object/group when the first object/group is within the predetermined distance.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the boundary is at least one of rectangular, circular and polygonal.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning a new display cue to the first object/group and the second object/group upon placement of the first object/group at the location, when the second object/group is determined not to have an assigned display cue, whereby the first object/group and the second object/group form a new group.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing an option not to assign the display cue to the first object/group; and

maintaining an original assignment of a display cue of the first object/group.

14. (Currently Amended) A system that enhances recognizability of objects/groups in a workspace, comprising:

a display cue assignment circuit that determines whether a first object/group is moved to a location within a predetermined distance of a second object/group, and assigns a display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group upon placement of the first object/group at the location;

an object placement circuit that places the at least one first object at a the location; and

an object grouping circuit that groups the first object/group and the second object/group when the first object/group is assigned the display cue of the second object/group,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group to the first object/group, a distance from the weighted center of the second object/group to the first object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group to the first object/group.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the objects/groups are free-format.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the display cue includes at least one of group-specific background color for objects/groups, group-specific color for text of objects/groups, group-specific color for bounding lines for objects/groups, colored halos or containers for objects/groups, colored regions surrounding objects/groups, line pattern boundaries for objects/groups, unique halftone or gray-shade boundaries for objects/groups, common font for text of objects/groups, and title bars.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the display cue assignment circuit temporarily assigns the display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group when

the first object/group is moved to a location within the predetermined distance of the second object/group.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the display cue assignment circuit determines whether the second object/group has an assigned display cue, and when the second object/group is determined not to have an assigned display cue, assigns another display cue that is different from a display cue of neighboring objects/groups

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein when the display cue assignment circuit determines that the first objects/groups is not within the predetermined distance of the second object/group, the display cue assignment circuit identifies the first object/group as unassigned.

20. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the first object/group is a new object.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the first object/group is an existing object/group being moved from another location in the workspace.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a preview circuit that provides a boundary of the second object/group when the first object/group is within the predetermined distance.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the boundary is at least one of rectangular, circular and polygonal.

25. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the display cue assignment circuit assigns a new display cue to the first object/group and the second object/group upon placement of the first object/group at the location, when the second object/group is determined not to have an assigned display cue, whereby the object grouping circuit groups the first object/group and the second object/group.

26. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the object grouping circuit provides an option not to assign the display cue to the first object/group, and the display cue assignment circuit maintains an original assignment of a display cue of the first object/group.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising:

computer readable program code embodied on the computer readable storage medium, the computer readable program code usable to program a computer to program a method for enhancing recognizability of objects/groups in a workspace, the method comprising:

determining whether a first object/group is moved to a location within a predetermined distance of a second object/group; and

assigning a display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group upon placement of the first object/group in the workspace, whereby the first object/group and the second object/group form a group,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least one of a distance from the closest object in the second object/group to the first object/group, a distance from the weighted center of the second object/group to the first object/group, and a distance from a boundary of the second object/group to the first object/group.

28. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the objects/groups are free-format.

29. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the display cue includes at least one of group-specific background color for objects/groups, group-specific color for text of objects/groups, group-specific color for bounding lines for objects/groups, colored halos or containers for objects/groups, colored regions surrounding objects/groups, line pattern boundaries for objects/groups, unique halftone or gray-shade boundaries for objects/groups, common font for text of objects/groups, and title bars.

30. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, further comprising temporarily assigning the display cue of the second object/group to the first object/group when the first object/group is moved to a location within the predetermined distance of the second object/group.

31. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether the second object/group has an assigned display cue; and

when the second object/group determined not to have an assigned display cue, assigning another display cue that is different from a display cue of neighboring objects/groups

32. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises when that the first objects/groups is determined not to be within the predetermined distance of the second object/group, identifying the first object/group as unassigned.

33. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the first object/group is a new object.

34. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the first object/group is an existing object/group being moved from another location in the workspace.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises providing a boundary of the second object/group when the first object/group is within the predetermined distance.

37. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the boundary is at least one of rectangular, circular and polygonal.

38. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises assigning a new display cue to the first object/group and the second object/group upon placement of the first object/group at the location, when the second object/group is determined not to have an assigned display cue, whereby the first object/group and the second object/group form a new group.

39. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises:

providing an option not to assign the display cue to the first object/group; and maintaining an original assignment of a display cue of the first object/group.

40. (Canceled)